MJ:mgs 08/07/01 65409.doc **PATENT**

a temporal address encoder that receives a signal containing data and encodes the signal according to an upstream address code that identifies a destination of at least some of the data.

- 9. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 8, wherein the temporal address decoder strips an optical code from the signal.
- 10. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 9, wherein the optical code is a composite code.
- 11. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 8, wherein the temporal address encoder applies an optical code.
- 12. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 11, wherein the optical code is a composite code.
- 13. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 8, wherein the temporal address encoder includes at least one fiber Bragg grating that applies the code.

14. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 8, wherein the temporal address decoder comprises at least one fiber Bragg grating that strips the code.

15. (Amended) The multiplexing station of claim 14, further comprising an optical circulator that directs the signal to at least one fiber Bragg grating.

> 16. (Amended) A method of broadcasting an optical signal to a plurality of user stations for data recovery only by a selected user, comprising:

selecting a temporal code for the optical signal; and

applying the temporal code to the optical signal with at least one fiber Bragg grating.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the temporal code is a composite code.